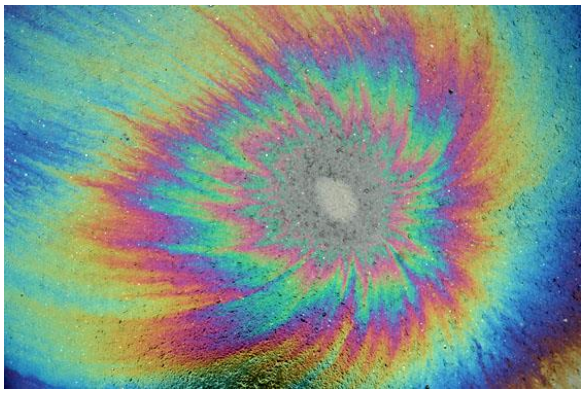
# ENST 202/HUMA 202: Culture, Energy, & Environment

**Spring 2016 (3 credits, D1)**
**Instructor: Derek Woods**

**This course is an introduction to energy issues as they relate to climate change. Intended for students from all disciplines, ENST 202 draws upon relevant research from across the humanities and social sciences and on artworks related to the central topic. Throughout the semester, we treat fossil fuels as the center of a network that connects such diverse subjects as the futurist novel, geological time, Star Trek, media ecology, and a very deep hole in Finland. Divided into three sections, Past, Present, and Future, the course shows students how scholars and artists have articulated energy and climate change issues during the twentieth century, what they are saying now, and how they envision the future. ENST 202 also covers relevant core texts of environmentalism. We conclude, for example, with a survey of new theories of the nature-culture relationship. In light of what we know about energy and climate change now, what should environmentalism look like in the twenty-first century?**



**Sample Readings and Viewings:**

**Timothy Mitchell, *Carbon Democracy*; Ross Barrett and Daniel Worden, *Oil Culture*; Marina Zurkow, *Necrocracy*; J. G. Ballard, *Crash*; Paul Thomas Anderson, *There Will Be Blood*; Michael Madsen, *Into Eternity*; Reza Negarestani, *Cyclonopedia*; Rick Bass, *Oil Notes*; Stewart Brand, *Whole Earth Discipline*; Field trips to Exxon Mobil Baytown and the Houston Museum of Natural Science**

**Evaluation:**

**Participation (15%), Reading Quiz (5%), Keyword Essay (15%), Interpretive Essay (30%), Poster Based on Essay(s) (15%), Final Exam (20%)**